

What is claimed is:

- 1        1. A health-care information system comprising:
  - 2            referee hospital information storage means for storing
  - 3            hospital information including diagnostic-care department
  - 4            information, information on doctors, and hospital map
  - 5            information on referee medical institutions as patient
  - 6            referral destinations;
- 7        examination information acceptance means for accepting
- 8            patient information from referrer medical institutions as
- 9            patient referral sources;
- 10       referee hospital information presentation means for
- 11       selecting appropriate referee medical institutions from said
- 12       referee hospital information storage means based on
- 13       examination information accepted by said examination
- 14       information acceptance means, and for presenting hospital
- 15       information on the selected referee medical institution to
- 16       said referrer medical institutions;
- 17       referral deciding means for accepting decisions on
- 18       referee medical institutions from said referrer medical
- 19       institutions; and
- 20       patient referral information presentation means for
- 21       creating patient referral information based on patient
- 22       information accepted by said examination information
- 23       acceptance means, and for sending said patient referral

1 information to the referee medical institutions decided upon  
2 by said referral deciding means.

3 2. The health-care information system set forth in  
4 claim 1, further comprising:

5 electronic patient chart preparation means for  
6 preparing electronic patient charts based on patient  
7 information accepted by said patient information acceptance  
8 means; and

9 referral creation means for creating letters of  
10 reference based on information input from said patient  
11 referral sources; wherein

12 said patient referral information presentation means  
13 transmits to said referee medical institutions patient  
14 referral information including electronic patient charts  
15 created by said electronic patient chart creation means  
16 attached to letters of reference created by said referral  
17 creation means.

18 3. The health-care information system as set forth in  
19 claim 1, said patient referral information presentation  
20 means comprising:

21 reply method selection means for having said referrer  
22 medical institutions select a reply method when at said  
23 referee medical institutions diagnostic results and  
24 diagnostic information including prescriptions is to be sent

1 from said referee medical institutions to said referrer  
2 medical institutions; wherein

3           said patient referral information presentation means  
4 sends to said referee medical institutions information on  
5 the reply method selected by said reply method selection  
6 means, attached to said patient referral information.

7           4. The health-care information system as set forth in  
8 claim 1, further comprising:

9           appointment information presentation means for  
10 presenting to said referrer medical institutions scheduling  
11 conditions for said referee medical institutions;

12           appointment acceptance means for having said referrer  
13 medical institution decide on dates and times for  
14 appointments at said referee medical institution; and

15           appointment finalization means for finalizing  
16 appointments by sending to said referrer medical  
17 institutions the appointment dates and times accepted by  
18 said appointment acceptance means.

19           5. The health care information system as set forth in  
20 claim 4, wherein said appointment information presentation  
21 means comprises appointment information storage means for  
22 acquiring and storing appointment conditions for said  
23 referee medical institutions.